

Unfortunately, among those who are most driven by ideology is the Bush Administration.

According to the December 13, 2001 issue of *The Washington Post*, Maryland has been forced by the Bush Administration to proceed with the enormous Wilson Bridge construction project without the ability to use a project labor agreement. I am sure that my colleagues recall that last February, shortly after taking office, President Bush tried to ban project labor agreements for any construction project receiving federal money. In a decision that specifically involved the Wilson Bridge project, a federal judge ruled in November that the ban issued by President Bush violated federal law and the Constitution. Following the decision, the Maryland State Highway Administration again sought permission from the Federal Highway Administration to implement a project labor agreement. But according to the *Post*, the Federal Highway Administration rejected Maryland's request saying the state had not proved the need for a PLA.

By effectively prohibiting the use of a project labor agreement on the Wilson Bridge project, the Bush Administration continues to thwart good business practice and good labor policy to the detriment of taxpayers and continues to deny working Americans the protections they are entitled to under law. I commend to my colleagues' and the administration's attention the reports concerning project labor agreements by the California Research Bureau and the UCLA Institute for Labor and Employment, and I sincerely hope that the Administration reconsiders its unwise hostility for these proven agreements that benefit business, taxpayers, workers and the public in general.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLK COUNTY, GA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, formed in 1851 by an act of the Georgia Legislature, Polk County, Georgia, was named for James Knox Polk, a former governor of Tennessee and the 11th President of the United States. With a population of 38,127 people and a land area of 311 square miles, Polk County is located in northwest Georgia.

For more than a hundred years the Cherokee and Creek Indians reigned supreme in north Georgia. The southernmost village in the Cherokee Nation was on Cedar Creek, which is located just off Main Street in present-day Cedartown, the county seat of Polk County. In 1826, two white men, Linton Walthall and Hampton Whatley, visited the area. They returned in 1832 to establish stores, and the community began to develop. In 1838, the Cherokee were moved into small forts, and then forced west on The Trail of Tears. In 1852, the first courthouse was built on a 20-acre site which had been donated to the town of Cedartown (then called "Cedar Town") by Asa Prior. Two years later the town was incorporated.

The War Between the States was not kind to Cedar Town. However, after the war, in 1867 the area began to grow and the town of Cedartown prospered, as did much of the surrounding area, including the towns of Rockmart and Aragon.

The residents of Polk County are preparing for Polk County's 150th birthday celebration. Tentative plans include special music, recognition of the oldest living person in the County, the oldest married couple, the longest married couple, the youngest citizen, and the oldest church in the County. Commemorative coins and Christmas ornaments have been designed, cedar trees have been requisitioned to be presented to schools, and a game of Polk historical trivia is being compiled and will be distributed to schools. Students in Polk County schools are being asked to follow specific guidelines to design a flag which would best represent the County. Some items which could be represented on the flag are the City of Aragon as a manufacturing utopia; the City of Cedartown for its cedar trees and for its original inhabitants; the Cherokees; and the slate quarries in Rockmart.

Polk County's sesquicentennial Birthday Celebration will be held on the evening of December 20th, 2001, on the steps of the Courthouse in Cedartown, Georgia. It would behoove us all to take the time to celebrate our heritage and stop to share the stories of our past with our children and grandchildren. The term "home town USA" truly describes the people of Polk County. They are kind, generous, caring folks and I am pleased to call many of them my friends. Happy Birthday Polk County!!

JUDGE GERARD DEVLIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Irish-American success story, Judge Gerard Devlin of Prince George's County, Maryland. Judge Devlin is called Jerry by his friends of which I am fortunate to be one. I have known Jerry for over thirty years, since I was an intern in Senator Brewster's office and Jerry was an elevator operator in the Capitol.

I have valued Jerry's friendship over those three decades and have always enjoyed his boisterous and comic Irish sensibility. We have also shared a close professional relationship and Jerry was always a faithful ally through our days in the Young Democrats, the Maryland General Assembly and beyond.

I pay tribute to Jerry today not simply because he is a good and old friend but to thank him upon the occasion of his retirement. His distinguished career in public service is not matched by many and his affable and courteous manner is appreciated by all.

Jerry was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts on May 29, 1933. He attended public schools in Dorchester and Boston, and served in U.S. Marine Corps from 1955 to 1957. He went on to Boston College and Suffolk University, and graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1969. He also earned his masters from the University of Maryland in 1970.

Jerry began his career in public service as a staff member in the United States House of Representatives in 1959 and later worked in the United States Senate. His service was not limited to the national level however. He served his local community for five years as a

member of the Prince George's County Board of Election Supervisors from 1964 to 1969, and as a member of the Charter Review Commission of the city of Bowie.

Jerry also served his community as a teacher to Prince George's County's youth at Gonzaga High School, Bowie State University, and Prince George's Community College.

In 1975, Jerry took his talent to the Maryland General Assembly where I had the pleasure of serving with him for six years. He was a member of the House of Delegates for eleven years and was named Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Maryland Young Democrats in 1975. He was also named Legislator of the Year by the Prince George's Municipal Association in 1983, 1985, and 1986.

Jerry stepped down from his position as Associate Judge in the 5th District Court of Maryland this past September and retired from a long and praiseworthy career in civic affairs. During his tenure as a judge, Jerry was well-liked and respected by both bench and bar for his even-handedness and wisdom. He had a good feel for fundamental fairness and through it all his Irish wit and humor shone through.

Judge Bob Sweeney, the former Chief Judge of the Maryland District Court, said this of Jerry, "One of the ten things that a good judge needs is courage. For a judge that means doing the right thing even if it is not the popular thing. Jerry Devlin personifies that type of courage."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to repeat today an Irish Blessing for my dear friend Jerry Devlin to thank him for his years of service and to wish him well in retirement: May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,/And may trouble avoid you wherever you go./May the road rise up to meet you,/May the wind be always at your back,/May the sun shine down upon your face,/And the rain fall soft upon your fields,/Until we meet again,/May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great Irish American who gave forty years of public service to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR ULRIK FEDERSPIEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Ambassador Ulrik Federspiel, who was sworn-in as Denmark's Ambassador to the United States in May of 2000, for his record of achievement in fostering transatlantic ties. Throughout his remarkable career, Ambassador Federspiel has worked tirelessly to strengthen the already close relationship between the United States and Denmark. Indeed, the Danes are fortunate to have such an illustrious representative in Washington, and the United States has no better friend and ally in the Diplomatic Corps here in Washington than Ambassador Federspiel.

Mr. Federspiel began his career in the Danish Foreign Service in 1971, and was immediately assigned to the prestigious European Community office within the Foreign Ministry.